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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SURGICAL ACCESS SYSTEM AND METHOD OF USING THE SAME

(57) Abstract: A surgical access system includes retractor (10) for creating an access path between an incision site (14) and a surgical site (12). The retractor (10) includes a frame (18) having a base member (20) and a pair of generally curved rails (24) extending therefrom. A tubular member (90) is coupled to the frame (18) and includes first and second blade portions (92, 94) that are capable of relative movement with respect to each other by movement on the curved rails (24). A method of inserting the retractor (10) into a patient (16) includes inserting a guide rod (156) over a guide wire (154), locating an obturator (168) in the retractor (10), inserting the obturator (168) and retractor (10) over the guide rod (156), and removing both the guide rod (156) and obturator (168) to leave the retractor (10) in the body to provide the access path.
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B  FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
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C  DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category*</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
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